Reply.—In this small State, it seems neither necessary nor desirable to have a separate detective Police. In making appointments or giving promotions, attention is being paid to special detective ability. In regard to the suggestion that in serious offences the Police Officer and the Magistrate should conduct investigation jointly, it may be pointed out that there is a circular to this effect even now.

110. Reform of the Police.

Mr. K. Padmanabhan Tampi (*Taluk Association, Kalkulam*) remarked that this was a subject brought forward at the last session of the Assembly and noted by the Government for favourable consideration. Extraordinary powers were vested in the hands of ignorant men and all that was now required for a person to get himself enrolled in the ranks of the police force was that he should be 5 ft. 6 in. in height and 32 inches in breadth. Policemen no doubt had to undergo some training but that was merely nominal and confined to the parade ground and the gymnasium. It was these men without any knowledge of criminal law or even of the world that were required to protect the person and property of the people of this State, to preserve order and maintain peace. The station-house officers were no better than the rank and file of the force and nearly 85 per cent of them were promoted from the constables' grade. None of them were able to draw lines of distinction among homicidal, suicidal and accidental deaths or the ways and methods of handling dead bodies or conducting post-mortem examination, not to speak of other matters. The proportion of policemen to area and population was respectively 1 to 9 and 1 to 4,083. The number of cognizable cases showed an increase in the past few years and currency difficulties as well as Marava inroads were matters of frequent occurrence. The inspection of Assistant Superintendents was not all that could be desired and the whole system admitted of considerable improvement in every conceivable direction. The member suggested (1) that educated and well-conducted young men might be attracted to join the ranks of the police by giving an increased pay to them; (2) that the charge of station-house offices might be entrusted to responsible men; (3) that well-educated, well-behaved and respectable men might be appointed as Police Inspectors and promotions to the rank of sub-magistrates ensured to them; (4) that District Magistrates might

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be given control over all police officers except the head of that department; (5) that a police school might be opened in the State to give a regular and all-round training to policemen; (6) that authority to prosecute police officers below the rank of Assistant Superintendents might be given to the people without the formal sanction of Government; (7) that strict rules might be framed for efficient supervision of the force by the superior officers; (8) that power to investigate might be taken away from head constables and vested only in Inspectors of police; (9) that a detective police force might be attached to the police army from men who might have received a special training in that line; and (10) that the southern frontier might be efficiently guarded to prevent the frequent inroads of dacoits from Tinnevelly.

Mr. M. Bhaskara Menon, B. A., B. L., (*Parur*) suggested that two graduates who are physically fit might be sent every year for training in the Vellore police training school and they might be asked to acquire a fair knowledge of criminal law and evidence.

Mr. K. C. Eapen, B. A., (*Kshemathalpara Samajam, Kadapra, Tiruvalla*), *Mr. N. Govinda Pillai* (*Kunnattur*), *Mr. G. Sankaranarayana Iyer* (*Shencottah*), *Mr. N. Vasudevan Pillai* (*Kartigapalli*) *and Mr. Kesavan Padmanabhan* (*Mavelikara*) also spoke on the same subject.

Reply.—Much as I wish that none of these matters should come up next year, I fear that subjects like the one now brought up cannot disappear altogether. It is doubtful whether the system of police can be said to be perfect anywhere. Police reform is not the work of a month or a year. Even in British India, it took four or five years for the Government to give the people their first instalment of reform in this direction, and this must have caused a very large sum of money. We shall watch the effect of these reforms and try to adopt in course of time whatever might be found suited to local needs and conditions and to the extent that our finances will permit. The useful suggestions made by the members will also be then considered.

III. Forests.

111. Improvement of Forest revenue.

Mr. S. Swamy Iyengar of Trivandrum (*Nominated*) said that

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